

Serial No. 10/808,591

Attorney Docket No. 26B-031

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 25 March 2004.

Claims 1-9 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Some amendments have been made to claim 1 to clarify the wording and not in response to the rejection. For example, the phrase "a slit for taking out a core mold" has been changed to "a slit through which a core mold is removed."

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Nakajima *et al.* ('355). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 1 now includes the following recitation:

"wherein the blocking member comprises:

a base portion;

an insertion portion, which projects from the base portion and which is to be fitted into the slit, and

an engaging projection, which projects from the base portion and which is to be engaged with the mounting base portion opposed to each other across the slit"

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The patent to Nakajima *et al.* fails to disclose or suggest these features. Therefore, the Nakajima *et al.* patent fails to anticipate claim 1 or its dependents, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

A purpose of the claimed blocking member is to prevent the mounting base from being deformed in the width direction by blocking the slit with the blocking clip, as explained in the specification.

The patent to Nakajima *et al.* fails to disclose or suggest a blocking member, as claimed. In the office action, it is asserted that the molded part 30 of Nakajima *et al.* serves as a blocking member (See the bottom of page 2 of the office action). However, the molded part 30 of Nakajima *et al.* neither clamps nor locks the slit 19, as required by claim 1. Further, the molded part 30 of Nakajima *et al.* neither clamps nor locks any part of the attachment portion 13, which is said to be the "mounting base portion" in the office action. Therefore, the patent to Nakajima *et al.* fails to satisfy the language of claim 1.

Further, no slit is formed in a mounting base portion 13 of the weather strip of Nakajima *et al.* In Nakajima *et al.* a slit 19 is formed in a sealing portion 14, not a base portion, and the slit 19 is not for removing a mold core, as claimed.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1 and are thus considered to be patentable over Nakajima *et al.* for the reasons given above with respect to their base claim.

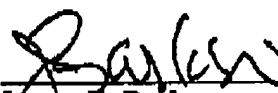
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In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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